

First Principles.

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THE LETELIER

ASSASSINATION

In This Issue: The Letelier-Moffitt Murder: Foreign Intelligence Agencies at Work in the United States, p. 3
BY CHRISTINE M. MARWICK

Coming: NOV. — Fred Hampton:
A Case of Political Assassination?
DEC. — The Freedom of Information Act

August 31, 1976 To amend the Freedom of Information Act Rep. Bella Abzug introduced H.R. 15353 to provide a legislated classification system, stipulates that no classification of any kind shall prevent either Congress or any U.S. court from examining any classified documents.

September 4, 1976 FBI files released in the Socialist Worker's Party lawsuit reveal that the FBI has 66 informers in the SWP at present. The files also show that the FBI has used 16 persons, including 316 SWP members, to spy on the party and its affiliate, the Young Socialist Alliance, in the last 16 years. The SWP and the YSA together have only 2500 members and refuse to take internal measures to discover the informants. (*Washington Post*, 9/5/76 p. 1)

September 5, 1976 FBI Director Clarence Kelley has allowed the FBI Association (a private organization which counts some 6600 former agents as its members) to solicit voluntary contributions from FBI agents to defend FBI agents charged with crimes that grew out of orders to investigate domestic radical groups. Critical field agents claimed a conflict of interest in the move saying it was wrong for members of a law enforcement agency to donate

money to defend people charged with crimes and that no other groups are permitted to solicit in this way. (*New York Times*, 9/6/76, p. 7)

September 7, 1976 Although Justice Department lawyers won an appeal to force two FBI agents to appear before a special grand jury investigating violations of civil rights, according to JD lawyer Stephen Horn, Justice has since made an agreement with the defense that would eliminate the need for some agents to appear. (*New York Times*, 9/8/76, C 43)

September 9, 1976 According to documents published last year by the House Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights, former Acting Director of the FBI, L. Patrick Gray, was informed of various irregularities and improprieties in the Bureau's operation, but that he took no action to investigate. Gray refused to discuss the allegations, but has made claims that improprieties such as Hoover's "secret files" on public figures, do not exist. (*New York Times*, 9/10/76, p. A 18)

September 13, 1976 According to testimony before the House Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights, the federal Civil Service Commission has

routinely used the intelligence files of local police agencies in investigating the backgrounds of federal job applicants. Chairperson Bella Abzug characterized such red squad files as being filled with "unsupported and often erroneous accusations and hearsay." Civil Service official Robert J. Drummond stated that the Commission no longer uses such data routinely, but would continue to do so "when we think we have a need to." (*New York Times*, 9/14/76)

September 16, 1976 In response to pressure from its House oversight committee, the FBI has estimated that it will cost an extra \$11.8 million to catch up on the processing of Freedom of Information requests and \$6.4 million annually to keep current. The Bureau is at present taking up to nine months to respond to routine requests which it is required by the FOIA to answer in 10 days; the requests are mostly from individuals seeking their own files. The Justice Department's FOIA chief stated that the FOIA and Privacy Acts ought to be changed to make them less of a burden on the bureaucracy. (*Washington Post*, 9/17/76, p. A9)

September 17, 1976 The House of Representatives passed House Resolution 1540, creating a select committee to investigate the assassinations of

In The
News

It is at all times necessary, and more particularly so during the progress of a revolution and until right ideas confirm themselves by habit, that we frequently refresh our patriotism by reference to first principles.

THOMAS PAINE